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February, 15, 2013

Appropriations Committee Testimony
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702
Hartford, Ct 06106-1591

To Administrators,

I am compelled to write the committee concerning the proposed elimination of the STRIVE Work Readiness Training Programs Funding in Connecticut. Given the fact that we in Connecticut are juggling both high unemployment in our cities as well as the need to migrate more of our prison population back into the community I find it hard to imagine that a program which has been so successful in dealing with both of these issues would be targeted for a budget reduction or elimination that would severely cripple its ability to be effective.

I have been fortunate enough to have had first hand knowledge of how this program has helped marginally employable people develop practical work behavioral skills that have led to their procuring and retaining full time work in the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport areas. This truly measurable impact to the economic and social fabric of our cities can never be understated or overlooked.

Handicapping these kinds of remedies in these critical areas is something we in Connecticut can not afford to do. Therefore I implore you to keep this programs funding intact and help save our cities and the many hundreds of people who through this program will realize a better future.

Thank You

Mike LaRue